

Published in the Interests of Californian Ornithology.

BULLETIN

- of the -

COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

OF CALIFORNIA.

VOL. I.

Santa Clara, Cal., July-August, 1899.

No. 4.



CONTENTS

	Page.		Page.
Nest and Eggs of Plumed Quail (Frontispiece.)		Winter Observations on Anna's Hummingbird	
Another Chapter on the Nesting of <i>Dendroica occidentalis</i> and other Sierra Notes	C. BARLOW, 59	W. OTTO EMERSON, 71	
Nesting and Other Habits of the Oregon Towhee	D. A. COHEN, 61	ECHOES FROM THE FIELD: Ravens Nesting on a Railroad Bridge; Decoy Nests of Wn. Winter Wren; Elevated Nest of Lutescent Warbler; Yellow Rail and Saw-Whet Owl in Sonoma Co.; Violet-green Swallow in Marin Co; Two Unrecorded Captures; Three Records for San Mateo Co.; Nesting of Belding's Sparrow	71
Summer Resident Warblers of Arizona (concluded)	O. W. HOWARD, 63	Editorial	74
The Passing of Alfonse Forrer (portrait)	GEO. F. BRENINGER, 66	The Gopher Snake as a Despoiler of Quails' Nests	T. J. HOOVER, 75
Some Summer Birds of Palamar Mountains	R. C. MCGREGOR, 67	Taking of a Condor's Egg	A. P. REDINGTON, 75
Observations on the American Raven in Southern California	C. B. LINTON, 68	Official Minutes; Letter from State List Com'tee.	76
Bird Protection; "Circumstances Alter Cases,"	R. C. MCGREGOR, 69		

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Mich. Ornithological Club.

Published Quarterly at 50 cts. per year.

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PHOTO BY C. BARLOW.

NEST AND EGGS OF THE PLUMED QUAIL.

SIERRA NEVADA MTS. 1899.

(See page 60.)

BULLETIN
— OF THE —
COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

A BI-MONTHLY EXPONENT OF CALIFORNIAN ORNITHOLOGY.

Vol. I. No. 4.

Santa Clara, Cal., July-August, 1899.

\$1.00 a Year.

Another Chapter on the Nesting of *Dendroica occidentalis*, and Other Sierra Notes.

BY C. BARLOW, SANTA CLARA, CAL.

[Read before the Northern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, July 1, 1899.]

RESTING in a four-foot cedar tree in the forest, with tall cedars and pines towering about it, the third nest and eggs of the Hermit Warbler were destined to be found. This nest was discovered by Mr. H. W. Carriger, who was one of our party to visit the Sierras from June 6 to 11, and to Mr. Carriger belongs the credit of taking the set, and through his kindness I am permitted to describe the nest and eggs, which constitute the third authentic set on record.

Our location was Fyffe, El Dorado Co., Cal., at an elevation of 3,700 feet, in the pine belt. Black-throated Gray, Calaveras and Hermit Warblers were present in about equal numbers, and could be classed as common. They were observed chiefly in the black oaks where most of the smaller birds seem to secure their food supply and the singing birds were doubtless males. On June 8, while passing through the timber, Mr. Carriger came upon a nest of the Hermit Warbler placed in a small cedar tree but $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the ground. The female was off at the time but soon appeared in a near-by bush. The nest was built on a small limb near the trunk of the sapling, which is certainly an unusual nesting site for this tree-breeding species to select.

The nest held four badly incubated eggs and we returned in the afternoon

to photograph and collect the set. A photograph was taken of the sapling and nest, showing the latter's position, after which we prepared to secure a picture of the bird when she should return and alight on the nest. All twigs which threw shadows on the nest were cut away until it was fully exposed to the sun. The camera was then set up about four feet from the nest, a string was attached to the shutter, and we prepared to conceal ourselves in the bushes. Mr. Welch, who carried the gun (a very necessary collecting adjunct in some cases) unconsciously deposited himself upon a small ant-hill, and heroically withstood their onslaughts for an hour, while Mr. Carriger crawled into some deer brush and I sat down ten feet away behind some small cedars to await the coming of the bird and take the picture. Soon the female warbler appeared and grew nervous at the army of invaders which surrounded her, the lense of the camera seeming most terrifying of all. Soon, however, she grew quite fearless and hopped about the bushes and in the pine above me, sometimes approaching within three feet and feeding all the while. Several times she hopped close to the nest, but a glance at the camera caused her to lose courage and around the circuit of bushes and trees she would go again, finally approaching the nest.

Meanwhile we were keeping as quiet in the hot sun, as numerous ants, flies, mosquitoes and other winged abominations would permit. Finally, the bird made her last circuit, approached the bush and hopped up on the edge of the nest; the shutter clicked and the watch said we had waited something over three hours for the photograph. This, however, was not forthcoming, for when I reached home and developed the plate it was almost completely "fogged," there being but an outline of the bird and nest. While our direct object failed I cannot say I regret my three hours' close acquaintance with little *Dendroica occidentalis*.

Mr. Carriger collected the nest and eggs which he describes as follows: the nest is composed outwardly of small, light weed stems and bleached pine needles, lined with cedar bark and horsehair. The nest measures: inside diameter $1\frac{3}{4} \times 2$ inches; outside 3×4 inches (extremes); outside depth 3 inches; inside depth $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Placed $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the ground in a small cedar, resting on a small limb about two inches from the trunk. The eggs measure .66x.52; .65x.53; .66x.53 and .67x.54 inches, and are marked principally at the larger ends, some confluent, with reddish brown and a few spots of black. The markings are heavy and more in the form of a wash than distinct spots. The female parent was secured. We noticed that the male Hermit Warblers were usually singing from the tall pines and black oaks and it is unlikely that the female sings during the breeding season. The position of the male bird has little to do with the location of the nest, and in the case of Mr. Carriger's nest the male did not appear for nearly an hour.

On June 9, two miles above Fyffe I saw a pair of Hermit Warblers and watched the female, thinking she had left her nest to feed. I watched her for half an hour, during which time she searched the deer brush and small trees industriously for food, covering both sides of the road, and the number of worms consumed was really remarkable. Finally I discovered her feeding a young bird in the road and had no trouble in capturing it. It was just out

of the nest and could not fly apparently. The plumage consisted of a few pin feathers, wing coverts and down of a dark grayish color, with two white bars on each wing. After examining it, I left the bird perched on a low limb.

While walking along a narrow trail in the woods on June 9, a Calaveras Warbler (*Helminthophila ruficapilla gutturalis*) flushed a few feet ahead of me and I found the nest beneath a small cedar bush, built in the "mountain misery" flush with the ground. The cavity was lined with soap root fiber and the nest contained five half grown young.

Three nests of the Plumed Quail were found by us, all built in the tar-weed or "mountain misery" (*Chamaebatia foliolosa*), and all near paths or roads. The one shown in the illustration was built at the foot of a large cedar tree, and was nicely concealed and shaded by the foliage of the weeds. The nesting cavity was about six inches across and three inches deep, lined with feathers from the parent bird. It held ten eggs, in which incubation was well advanced. Several times the bird was flushed in order that we might observe the nest, but she was persistent and always returned. The photograph was taken in the early morning of June 7, at which time the bright sunlight presented a variety of shades in the forest. The "mountain misery" was in full bloom at this time and the nature of the shrub is well illustrated in the half-tone photograph. Another nest containing 11 incubated eggs was found on the same day, placed amongst the tar-weed in the shade of large cedars. This nesting cavity was about six inches in depth, and composed of dry leaves from the tar-weed and lined with feathers. From the nests observed it seems certain that the Plumed Quail makes a nest of its own, for the one last mentioned was substantial enough to bring home. On June 10 Mr. Carriger took a nest and 10 eggs built beside the road in the tar-weed three miles above Fyffe. The whistle of the Plumed Quail could be heard commonly through the woods, but the birds were seldom seen.

Nesting and Other Habits of the Oregon Towhee.

BY D. A. COHEN, ALAMEDA, CAL.

[Read before the Northern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, Sept., 1898.]

THIS variety, *Pipilo maculatus oregonus*, was here at one time known by local collectors as the Spurred Towhee, *P. m. megalonyx*, but now as near as I can determine the true Spurred Towhee is not found nearer than Monterey County and our Alameda County variety is *oregonus*. With us the Oregon Towhee is resident, spending the late summer until spring somewhat gregariously, caused probably more from choice of location than from sociability, but it is not observed in pairs so much as the Californian Towhee, *P. fuscus crissalis*, at the period just stated. At this season it is wariest, secluding itself to the underbrush, but after pairing in the spring is much more easily approached, owing in a great measure to its uneasiness at the approach or the invasion of its nesting site. At this time, especially if a nest is under construction, both birds display great uneasiness, flitting about the tops of the low growth, uttering their unmusical "chir-chee-wee" or "che-wee-wee" but their utmost anxiety is displayed after the young are hatched. The birds continue their various notes so long as a person remains in the vicinity of the nest, and approach quite close if the person remains reasonably quiet. Presuming the female does all the incubating, the male at this period generally betrays the vicinity of the nest by his nervousness, his notes first attracting attention. He is often heard, from his perch, uttering notes, caused by nothing further than inclinations. The notes at any time are little varied. After the young are grown very little is heard of the Oregon Towhee's vocal powers unless the bird is driven from its retreat or is suddenly startled.

Being almost terrestrial it is also partly arboreal, often flying short distances from tree to tree and when pursued often forsaking the underbrush for trees. Its food is obtained mostly from the ground chiefly by scratching, after the manner of the robin, and is mostly insectivorous. It is one of the last birds

to settle down for the night. I have not met this bird throughout the country as abundantly as I expected to and among hundreds of nests I have found only one was away from Alameda. This nest was found by accident. As I was resting in a densely wooded locality thickly grown up with underbrush where I had for a number of years noticed one pair of Oregon Towhees, yet never expecting to find the nest in such a wild place, a movement in the bushes close by almost caused me to shoot at a supposed wood rat, but upon investigation it proved that it was the flushed bird slipping back onto the nest, containing a handsome set of four eggs, the nest elaborately composed of weed stems and a larger proportion of dead leaves, situated two feet from the ground among dense brambles and fallen leaves, and about eighteen inches from the top of the mass, and several feet from the road.

All the nesting data about to be related is from my home in Alameda and recorded from a radius of less than 400 yards. From 1886 to about 1892 I found annually an average of eight sets and a few nests containing young. There were then approximately nine pairs of birds and many sets were second sets of the same season. At that time the nests were placed on the ground with very rare exceptions, but owing to an army of cats that had become self supporting there were in 1898 only seven pairs of Oregon Towhees on the premises and nearly all the nests for the last five or six years were placed off the ground, especially on clumps of prickly wild blackberry vines. Having freed the premises from the cats by late spring, the Oregon Towhees began to build more on the ground, also the California Partridges commenced to resume their choice nesting sites. The Oregon Towhees' usual nesting site is under a small wild blackberry vine growing among the grass, or under low growths of these vines, always more or less in the shade of a tree. Occasionally under

the foliage of cypress limbs spreading over the ground, more commonly under myrtle, less commonly among ivy growing along the ground, but always in a partly shaded spot. One nest was under the drooping leaves of an artichoke plant and one beside a lauristinus hedge among a bed of verbenas was subjected to almost all the sun. In all these ground-nesting cases the bird scratches a hollow in the sandy soil or leaf mould about an inch deep before bringing building material. One nest, four feet from the ground, was fashioned into the rather flat top of a partially decayed oak stub on a live oak, the trunk of the tree and the stub being overgrown with ivy. It contained a set of four eggs and as near as I remember, fifteen eggs of the California Partridge. The female ? towhee was incubating on top of the pile. The partridge occasionally deposits one or two eggs in a towhee's nest built on the ground. One nest on the ground contained three towhee's eggs and eighteen partridge's, the towhee having abandoned the nest after six or eight partridge eggs were deposited in it. One peculiarly situated nest was almost under a log lying under an oak tree; it also contained one partridge egg. Several years ago I found a high nest, nine feet up in a large cypress tree and several others about this distance from the ground, among oak branches intergrown with wild blackberry vines, while in 1898 I noted a nest twelve feet up in the same cypress tree. No eggs were laid in it. One nest, one foot off the ground, was in a geranium bush, one in a cypress hedge five feet up, one, unused, in a small apple tree eight feet up and several in low thick garden shrubs, while others were on top of low clumps of wild blackberry vines so that the leaves afforded concealment and protection from the sun and in rare cases trees afforded no shade.

The earliest nesting date is March 27, 1888, the next earliest, April 4, 1896, with complete sets, yet April 20 is none too early for first sets. Sets of fresh eggs in June and July are indicative of second or third sets, as I have experimented to demonstrate this by taking the first and second sets of particular

pairs of Oregon Towhees causing them to build and lay three times in one season. As an instance of this towhee's devotion to a particular spot, I removed in one season three nests and sets of one pair of birds and an average of two sets a season in other seasons from the same pair for four or five years in succession. Their nest was always within twenty feet of the center of a low growth of wild blackberry vines under a large oak tree. This experiment also goes to demonstrate that oologists do not, by taking a set of eggs, destroy that number of birds, as some people think it does. I can quote instances of other species of birds producing a new nest and set of eggs in a remarkably short period after being robbed of the first or even the second set, if it will be of any help to the oological fraternity. The towhees require from two to three weeks after being robbed to produce a new domicile and eggs; some other species less time. The second nests usually contain less material than the first, and as an example of this assertion and to demonstrate the devotion of the birds to a certain area of their choice, in 1897 I took a second set from under a small blackberry vine in a wooded pasture and the third set was found three weeks later about sixty feet distant from the site of the first under a very small vine where the grass had been entirely eaten down and was very scant in material.

I can never think otherwise than that Major Bendire was correct in asserting that eggs of individual birds in consecutive sets bear marked resemblance to each other, for, by taking into account the similarity of a late set to the preceding set of the same year, both sets taken nearly from the same spot, the evidence is almost conclusive, not alone in the case of the Oregon Towhee but with many other birds, and to make it conclusive, in my opinion at least, I have noticed that eggs taken from year to year from the same small area occupied by one pair of birds, bear unmistakable resemblance in shape as well as in coloration and style of marking. In a large series, just as they come, the shape, coloration and marking of different sets are remarkably

wide apart; some are long, either oval or pointed at one end, seldom pointed however, while others are much rounded. The difference in size and shape of eggs in one set is occasionally commentable and the style of marking may be odd, also the ground color, while very rarely all these characteristics present themselves in a set of four eggs.

Four eggs is the average number to a set, often three, and only twice have I found five eggs. I have taken two sets of two eggs each, all much below medium size; three eggs were well incubated and the fourth was infertile. In early numbers of the *Nidologist* I referred to having found sets of unusually small eggs, and individual birds laying successive sets of such eggs. The only abnormally large egg I found was among a set of three eggs. One nest of four very small eggs contained two that were infertile, two heavily incubated and two of the California Partridge, heavily incubated.

The nests bear a great similarity in material used. The general composition is a lot of dry leaves for a foundation or for a lining over the earth, strips of bark, stalks of weeds, coarse dry grass, occasionally a few shavings and rubbish that can be worked into the foundation and rim. The lining is the least variable, being neatly laid, rather crosswise, and consists of a certain kind of fine, bright, dry grass which is almost all stem. Occasionally there is a little less of this grass when long hair is substituted, but this they seem unable to place so neatly as the California Towhee. A nest under an oak in the

center of a large grain field was composed of a few pieces of weed stems, the balance and the lining of short, rather coarse black rootlets, the wild grass in this case being probably too far distant for birds of short flight to carry. A nest built near a pile of dead cypress branches was composed chiefly of strips of bark from the branches. Other nests whenever found under pine trees are invariably lined totally with dry pine needles, the birds evidently preferring this pliant material of suitable length to the kind of grass usually used and growing close by.

The young when first hatched are black with yellow gapes and covered with thin greyish-white down. The incubating bird sets close and the nest is usually found by flushing the bird which at times flushes at the sound of approach fifty feet away, always betraying the location by rising high enough into the air to be detected, though occasionally slipping away through cover to a short distance, only to make a fuss and cause a search for the nest. At times the bird hops along a few feet before rising.

Some years ago, one winter, I beheld an Oregon Towhee on top of a leafless apple tree truthfully imitating the California Jay's commonest notes, very different from its own. From my close point of observation I could detect the movements of its throat and bill and determine that none other than the object of my gaze was for the time being the "mockingbird", the only one of its kind I have had the fortune to hear.

Summer Resident Warblers of Arizona.

BY O. W. HOWARD, LOS ANGELES, CAL.

[Read before the Southern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, Feb. 25, 1899.]

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER.

(Concluded.)

This species is quite common in the pine regions throughout Arizona, but I have not seen it at a lower elevation than 5000 feet. Unlike other warblers in this section, they keep almost entirely in the underbrush, where they are continually on the move and at the same time uttering a quick chirp as if in distress. Owing to the dull plumage

and retiring habits of this bird comparatively few are seen. The nests are placed on the ground, under a bush or tuft of grass and are made of fine straws, rootlets and fibres, loosely put together. Except when the birds have young, they are very shy about going to the nest, and for this reason few nests are found with eggs while more are found containing young birds.

On our trip in 1896, Mr. W. B. Judson found a nest containing four fresh eggs on the 17th day of May. It was placed on a side hill under a tuft of grass at an elevation of about 7000 feet. On June 1, Mr. Judson found another nest in the same locality and after watching the bird for fully a half hour she went to the nest which was placed on the edge of a bluff in a bunch of grass, under some pines. After seeing the bird go to where we supposed the nest was situated we made a careful search and nearly stepped on it several times when Mr. Judson finally found it. This nest

contained four eggs well advanced in incubation. The eggs are of a dull white color, finely speckled over the entire surface with brown and cinnamon. The nests of the bird, like those of other ground-nesting birds of this locality, are destroyed by jays and snakes. The jays steal both eggs and young. Often a whole band of these winged wolves will sweep down on a nest and in less time than it takes to tell it they will devour the contents and destroy the nest, the pitiful notes of the helpless parents being drowned by the harsh notes of the marauders.

AUDUBON'S WARBLER.

Audubon's Warbler is quite scarce during the summer months, as only a few of them remain to breed. Like the Olive, they are found high up in the pines along the tops of the ridges. I found several nests in 1897 and 1898 in Huachuca Mountains. The nests are very loosely constructed, being composed almost entirely of loose straws with a few feathers and hair for a lining. The eggs, generally four in number, are of a dull white ground color with light brown spots and blotches and under shell markings of a dull lavender. One nest containing four slightly incubated eggs, found on June 14, 1898, was placed in a red fir tree about fifteen feet up, which is unusually low for this species.

Another nest taken June 22, 1898, was placed in the lower branches of a sugar-pine about fifty feet from the ground, and twelve feet out from the trunk of the tree. This nest, like many others, could be taken only by using a long rope which I always carry with me. One end of the rope is drawn up into the tree by means of a cord and is passed around the trunk over a limb diagonally above the nest; the rope is then pulled around until both ends meet on the ground, thus making a double rope. The party on the ground

then walks out with the rope until it reaches a point within a foot or two of the nest and holds it as tight as possible so that the rope is quite often at an angle of 45°. The party up the tree then twists the rope around one leg and slides down to a point even with the nest where he hangs on with one hand and with the other takes the eggs from the nest, one by one, and places them in his mouth. This seems to take half an hour but probably takes a half-minute. The next thing in order is to cut the end of the limb off with the nest. This is done with a small hatchet carried in the belt and is the most aggravating job I know of; it is something like playing golf. You strike at the air three times to every time you hit the limb and the worst of it all is that you cannot swear because you have your mouth full of eggs. When the limb is nearly severed you put your hatchet back in your belt or drop it on the rocks below to keep it sharp. Then you pull the limb off and hold it in one hand while you slide down the rope to the ground, where you find a shady place and lie down while the other fellow pulls the rope down. Three or four innings like this every day will give you a fine appetite for supper. If you don't believe me, try it!

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER.

These birds are very plentiful during the breeding season in the mountains of Southern Arizona. They may be found from an altitude of 4000 to 9000 feet, but are more common in the oak

belt, from 4000 to 7000 feet altitude, where a great many of them breed. Nevertheless, comparatively few nests are found. I believe the reason for this is, because unlike other warblers, these

birds do not have a note of alarm nor do they show any signs of breeding, and unless you see them carrying building material one might as well give up watching them for they could keep you busy all day doing nothing else. The birds are constantly on the jump, apparently catching insects. Even when flushed from the nest they will hop about in their usual unconcerned manner. Many nests are placed in the dense thickets of scrub oak which abound in this section. They are placed in the forks of the larger limbs quite often within reach of the ground, while other nests are placed high up in pines. The nests are very compact, of a deep cup shape, much like those of the Yellow Warbler. The nesting material varies according to the locality.

PAINTED REDSTART.

One of the prettiest of all our warblers. The markings of red, white and black are very clear and the birds seem to take great pride in showing off their colors. With their wings partly open and tail spread they may be seen hopping about on mossy banks or stumps of large trees, generally in the vicinity of a spring or waterfall; now and then they will fly up to catch some insect, much after the manner of the flycatcher. Breeding commences early in April and lasts until June. I found two nests just completed on April 11, 1897 in the Santa Catalina Mountains, near Tucson, Ariz., and also found a set of fresh eggs on June 1, 1896 in the Huachuca Mts.

The nests are usually placed on slop-

RED-FACED WARBLER.

These birds are quite common in the mountains of Southern Arizona, especially during the spring migration. I have seen as many as four or five feeding in one tree. They become scarcer as the season advances and at the time of breeding comparatively few of them remain. The nests are placed on the ground under a bunch of grass or near a fallen log, where leaves have drifted. It would be impossible to find them without watching the birds and even then one must be very quiet and keep out of sight as much as possible, for the birds seem to realize the danger of go-

From a nest found May 20, 1896. I secured a fine set of four fresh eggs. This nest was placed in an oak sapling, in an upright fork about ten feet from the ground. I visited two other nests the same day. These were placed in similar situations. I had found the birds building these some time before and expected to procure a fine set of eggs from each, but to my disappointment both nests had been destroyed, the work, undoubtedly, of Arizona Jays. I found other nests, some placed in large white oaks and some in sycamores and have known the birds to build high up in pines. The eggs are dull white, speckled and blotched with grayish-brown. There is great variation in the color and size, even in eggs of the same set.

ing ground under a projecting rock or bunch of grass and, as a rule, in the vicinity of a spring or waterfall where there is a rank growth of ferns or grass. These nests are loosely constructed as a rule but sometimes are quite compact and are composed of fine straws, vegetable fibres and leaves, with a lining of fine grass and hair. The nests I found were between 5000 and 8000 feet elevation. The eggs are more nearly oval in shape than most other warblers' and are slightly larger than the average. They are pure white, speckled with markings of cinnamon and lavender over the entire shell, but more heavily at the larger end, sometimes forming a wreath.

ing to the nest.

I found my first nest on May 18, 1896 at an elevation of about 7000 feet. It was placed on a side hill under a tuft of grass. The composition was mostly of fine straws with a few leaves for lining. This nest contained four perfectly fresh eggs, pure white in color, marked with fine specks and blotches over the entire shell, and more thickly at the larger end. There is quite a variation in the eggs, both in size and marking. The other nests I examined were placed in similar situations and the full sets were invariably of four eggs each.

THE PASSING OF ALFONSE FORRER.

ALFONSE FORRER died at his home in Santa Cruz, Cal., on March 15, 1899. His life was one of activity, constantly associated with nature. Few have left behind them so much to perpetuate their memory as has the subject of this sketch. It has in years gone by given me much pleasure to listen to the many interesting narratives which came into Mr. Forrer's life as a naturalist, I having lived a number of years in the same city which Mr. Forrer had chosen for his home, and where he died. Alfonse Forrer was born in London in 1836. His early education was secured in England, after which he went to Zurich, then a great center of learning. He spoke fluently, as well as read and wrote German, French and Spanish, and also English, in which he was possessed of more than ordinary learning.

At an early age he emigrated to the United States, and at the outbreak of hostilities in 1861 he enlisted with the 1st Louisiana Cavalry, serving as First Lieutenant in the cause of the North. At the close of the war Mr. Forrer accepted a commission to collect zoological material along the west coast of Mexico and the United States for the British Museum. He made extensive collections of mammals, birds, birds' nests and eggs, shells, reptiles and insects in the state of Sinaloa and Durango and the Tres Marias Islands, Mexico.

Later several months were spent at La Paz, Lower California, thence to San Diego and up the coast. Some time was spent in search of natural history subjects in the high Sierras from Lake Tahoe northward through Sierra, Plumas, Lassen and Modoc counties. Much valuable material was collected in the vicinity of Klamath Lake, Oregon, Fort Lapwai, Idaho and on Vancouver Island. After having supplied

the British Museum with large series of everything taken, other museums were supplied, in which connection Mr. Forrer made four trips to Europe.

The discoveries which perpetuate the name of Forrer are a goldfinch, *Chrysomitris forreri*, collected near Mazatlan, Mexico, and named in his honor by Sclater and Godman. Other forms are a vireo, *Vireo flavoviridis forreri* and a parrot, *Chrysotis forreri*. Besides these we have a frog, a snail, a star fish and several plants that bear his name. In ten years of field work

it is naturally expected that Mr. Forrer met with many obstacles that impeded his work and many instances of pleasure, as well as some that were annoying and embarrassing. An instance of this kind happened while he was collecting in a "backwoods" region in eastern Oregon. Mr. Forrer was desirous of getting a few sets of eggs of the Sage Grouse. His own efforts proving repeated failures, he at last resorted to



an advertisement in a local paper, offering to pay a good cash price for several sets of eggs of the Sage Grouse. In a few days a small country lad stood in Mr. Forrer's presence offering a set of nine eggs of the desired species. Mr. Forrer accepted these, paid the stipulated price and the lad returned to his country home. The next day the lad brought two more sets which were also taken. Two days later more sets were brought! Mr. Forrer's suspicions were then aroused and after a critical examination it was decided that the eggs were frauds and they were thereupon destroyed. Mr. Forrer gained in experience, while the boy was richer by several dollars as the result of a clever imitation which could not have been done so neatly except by one who knew the bird and its eggs well. I had the pleasure of examining one of these eggs which Mr. Forrer saved for future reference. I concluded it was the egg of a small breed of chicken, carefully wrapped in cloth having small, irreg-

ular markings, and by applying vinegar the print was left on the shell of the egg.

Mr. Forrer was widely known in Europe as well as in the United States among the older naturalists, but less so with the younger generation, since in his later years active field work was abandoned, excepting, perhaps, in shells, star-fish and sea mosses. The seashore about Santa Cruz offered many advantages in these branches. I have seen Mr. Forrer, accompanied by his wife, collecting the beauties that lurked among the rocks as the tide went out, on many occasions. In the death of Alfonse Forrer we lose a noted naturalist, one who has been a friend to many a struggling youth in helping him along the difficult path to a better knowledge of avian life, the beauties of the sea and the freedom that can be enjoyed in nature study.

GEO. F. BRENINGER.

Phoenix, Arizona, May 21, 1899.

Some Summer Birds of Palamar Mountains, from the Notes of J. Maurice Hatch.

BY RICHARD C. MCGREGOR.

THIS list of birds, observed by Mr. Hatch on the Palamar Mountains, between June 16 and 21, 1897, has been arranged from notes which he sent me for use in the state list. The mountains have an altitude of 5000 to 6000 feet and are covered with firs, oaks and cedars. Ferns and underbrush of various kinds abound. Numerous small streams of water are present.

- 1 *Oreortyx pictus plumiferus*.—Fairly common. A nest found June 19, contained five well incubated eggs.
- 2 *Lophortyx californica vallicola*.—Common at western base of the mountains. A female taken June 16 had an egg in the oviduct.
- 3 *Columba fasciata*.—About 100 birds seen near western base of mountains on June 15.
- 4 *Zenaidura macroura*.—Common at western base of mountains. One young in the nest found June 15.
- 5 *Pseudogryphus californianus*.—Breeds. One seen on the 16th and four more two days later.
- 6 *Cathartes aura*.—Quite common both

at the base and on the summit.

- 7 *Buteo borealis calurus*.—One pair seen on the summit.
- 8 *Falco sparverius deserticolus*.—Fairly common on the summit of the mountains where it probably breeds.
- 9 *Melanerpes formicivorus bairdi*.—Very common at this time of the year. Some young birds and adult males were collected, the latter having the testes very large.
- 10 *Colaptes cafer*.—Fairly common summer resident.
- 11 *Calypte costae*.—A few pairs seen.
- 12 *Calypte anna*.—A few pairs seen.
- 13 *Myiarchus cinerascens*.—A few seen. One taken on the 19th.
- 14 *Contopus richardsonii*.—Common. Nests from 25 to 50 feet from the ground. Two nests collected contained two and three eggs respectively.
- 15 *Otocoris alpestris chrysolaema*.—A few pairs seen on the western slope of the mountains.
- 16 *Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis*.—Common. Both young of the year and new nest

- found.
- 17 *Corvus americanus*.—A few seen at west side and 18 five miles east of the summit, feeding on the myriads of grasshoppers that were present.
 - 18 *Sturnella magna neglecta*.—Common in the mountain meadows.
 - 19 *Icterus cucullatus nelsoni*.—Common at western base and on the top of the mountains.
 - 20 *Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*.—A few young of the year seen.
 - 21 *Carpodacus purpureus californicus*.—Scarce. Very shy and difficult to approach.
 - 22 *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*.—A small flock and a few pairs seen near an orchard. Four fresh eggs taken on the 19th.
 - 23 *Chondestes grammacus strigatus*.—Fairly common.
 - 24 *Spizella socialis arizonæ*.—A few pairs seen.
 - 25 *Junco hyemalis thurberi*.—Abundant. Nestlings and new nests observed on the 19th.
 - 26 *Pipilo maculatus megalonyx*.—Common. Fresh eggs collected.
 - 27 *Zamelodia melanocephala*.—Fairly common. Young were seen, just able to fly.
 - 28 *Cyanospiza amana*.—Common. Probably breeds.
 - 29 *Piranga ludoviciana*.—Few seen. A male was taken in breeding plumage and with greatly enlarged testes.
 - 30 *Petrochelidon lunifrons*.—A few pair.
 - 31 *Tachycineta thalassina*.—Common. Breeding in natural cavity of trees.
 - 32 *Phainopepla nitens*.—Common at western base of mountains where they were eating alder berries. One nest in course of construction was found.
 - 33 *Vireo gilvus*.—Common at summit.
 - 34 *Dendroica aestiva*.—Fairly common.
 - 35 *Troglodytes aedon aztecus*.—Very abundant, more than twenty nests containing young being observed.
 - 36 *Certhia familiaris occidentalis*.—Rare.
 - 37 *Sitta carolinensis aculeata*.—Common.
 - 38 *Parus inornatus*.—A large flock noted on the mountain side.
 - 39 *Parus gambeli*.—Common.
 - 40 *Sialia mexicana occidentalis*.—Common. Set of four eggs taken on the 17th.

Observations on the American Raven in Southern California.

BY C. B. LINTON, WHITTIER, CAL.

DURING my collecting experience I have found the American Raven (*Corvus corax sinuatus*) nesting in almost every range of foot-hills in Los Angeles and neighboring counties. Although it is being continually driven deeper into the wildest and most inaccessible portions of its former haunts by the encroachment of civilization, it is still abundant in certain localities. In the Puente hills of Los Angeles County I have taken numerous sets of eggs of the American Raven in the past four years. A tramp of a day or two through this range will reveal to the collector dozens of large, compact nests now unused excepting by an occasional Great Horned Owl or Western Redtail, whereas they were formerly occupied by ravens.

In February, 1895, I found my first pair of ravens putting the finishing touches to a huge nest built on a ledge of rock about fifty feet from the bottom of a ninety foot cliff. I was greatly discouraged at first as this nest seemed

inaccessible, but on March 14 I persuaded a friend to climb to it, and he being experienced in the art, reached the nest without difficulty and secured a handsome set of five fresh eggs, which measured 2.09x1.37; 2.06x1.37; 2.04x1.35; 1.88x1.31 and 1.79x1.28. In color they were bluish-green, heavily covered with blotches of dark brown and quite similar to eggs of the American Crow. A set of four slightly incubated eggs was taken from this nest on March 28 and I procured another set of six eggs from a neighboring cliff on April 20, evidently from the same pair of birds. The eggs of this set vary greatly in size and coloration, one being very small and slightly marked.

I have noticed quite an oddity in three sets of eggs taken from a pair of birds in 1897. Each egg has a "knob" on the larger end, making the series quite a curiosity, and I have noticed the same deformity in a set taken this season (1899) from a new nest near the

site of the old ones, the new nest being composed of the remnants of the several old ones, with some additions. The raven is very persistent and I have known one pair to lay four sets of eggs in one season and would probably have laid a fifth but unfortunately the nest was destroyed.

I have occasionally found them nesting in the steep banks of deep, narrow gulches, but usually they prefer a large gravel cliff in some secluded part of the hills, and in every instance the nests have been lined with sheep's wool gathered from the numerous bands of sheep feeding in the vicinity. I had intended to pay my respects to the ravens this year but have been otherwise engaged. However I procured a handsome set of Duck Hawk $\frac{1}{2}$ from a deserted raven's nest on April 5, 1899, and feel that since I cannot help it, that I should allow my birds a short vacation.

FURTHER COMMUNICATIONS ON BIRD PROTECTION.

"CIRCUMSTANCES ALTER CASES."

To My Fellow Collectors:—

"The science of ornithology demands the collecting of any reasonable number of birds to further its ends, and personally I have taken the lives of birds with as much zeal as any, when the skins were desired for actual use." I believe that I stand on the same ground as that defined by Mr. Barlow in our last BULLETIN. I am also in sympathy with the position taken by Dr. Coues in his editorial in April *Osprey*. To put the matter in my own words, I believe in collecting all the scientific specimens, birds' skins and eggs included, that we may want to use. I believe in series and large series. If, of one species, we can use 100 mammals or 300 fish, we had better take them. If specimens are to be compared, if we can learn anything from them, or if we can pass them on to another who is in need of the material, I believe we are justified in collecting in any quantity to supply that demand. I do not believe in collecting for the milliner or taking birds in nesting timewhen the same plumages may be had before nesting. I have refrained from shooting many birds because I thought they

had nests and I have shot birds when I knew they had eggs or young. "Circumstances alter cases."

In the numerous letters which have appeared in the last six months concerning "bird slaughter" and "egg hogging", there seem to be about three grounds upon which the various authors condemn collecting. It is wrong to kill birds and take their eggs because (1) it is cruel; (2) it is of no use or scientific benefit or (3) it will exterminate the species. If it is cruel to kill wild birds and take their eggs then we had better stop killing and robbing the domestic birds. I do not agree with the Rev. Mr. Henninger that "the forcing a poor Flicker to lay 71 eggs in 73 days" is cruel. How many eggs is a poor barn-yard fowl forced to lay in a year? Is it not cruel to force her to hatch duck's eggs? It is not commonly so considered. The question of cruelty is one which we cannot consider in this connection as it is a matter of personal opinion and not subject to discussion any more than religious dogmas are.

The value of large series of eggs from a single species is largely a matter of personal opinion. For my part I think as much can be learned from 150 eggs of the Red-tailed Hawk as from an egg each of 150 species of birds. In this connection it is hardly worth while to call attention to the indignation of F. H. K. in his review of *Eggs of Native Pennsylvania Birds*, *Osprey* for November, 1898, where he condemns the collecting of more than 7 eggs of a species and of oological abnormalities altogether. The number of sets of a species which you will take must be regulated by yourself and decided without the help of the protectionist. Everyone learns by collecting a few eggs for himself. There is one class of collectors which should certainly be suppressed and they have been well dealt with, in writing, by Mr. Witmer Stone. See *Auk* XVI, p. 55. For the boys who gather eggs as they would pretty shells and the man who strives to possess the largest collection in town, we have no use. Neither can we consider such articles as the one asking "Hast thou named all the birds without a gun"? We don't do it that way on the Pacific Coast. The A. O. U. says it doesn't go!

In the possible extermination of birds we find the first point which the extreme bird protectionists have made. If we are seriously reducing the bird ranks it is time to call a halt and every sincere ornithologist will obey the command. Let us see what evidence we have

in the case. I believe that most of the writers speak without knowledge, for they certainly fail to present facts. The Rev. Mr. Henninger, however, gives us an array of figures from Davie's *Nests & Eggs of North American Birds* which is very alarming,—to the Rev. Mr. Henninger. (*Osprey*, Feb. '99.) Does he seriously fear that the taking of 500 Coot's eggs or 917 Kentucky Warbler's eggs will endanger these species? Blessed news; let us gather at once 5,000 eggs of *Passer domesticus* and wipe him from the earth! I do not wish to write anything in defense of Mr. Davie's book; it needs none. Long may it live. What I do wish is to set at rest the mind of the Rev. Mr. Henninger concerning the destruction of certain bird species at the hand of the egg collector. He objects to one man having 94 eggs of *Ptychoramphus aleuticus*. I have never taken many eggs of this bird myself, but could show anyone where 94 eggs might be taken every day for two weeks and leave several thousand for seed. If I am not mistaken, I helped collect "50 eggs of the Guadalupe Petrel in two days," but I can assure the fearful that there were plenty of Petrels' eggs still in the ground.

If I tell him of taking 100 Shearwaters' eggs in one day, shall I be condemned? Yet there are thousands of Shearwaters' eggs left in that place. The fact that a few men only possess such large series as 112 eggs of the Chuck-will's-widow seems to make a lot of difference, to the widows. If everyone collected in big series the poor Chucks might have to try the Flicker's dodge of laying 71 eggs in 73 days. The Rev. Henninger shows how well he has learned his profession when he mentions an act and leaves his readers to imagine the attendant circumstances. 'Tis a common trick of the public speaker but goes not so well in writing. To illustrate what I mean let us take the case of the Guadalupe Petrel. This bird breeds, so far as known, only on Guadalupe, an uninhabited island 200 miles from civilization. A trip there is expensive and landing dangerous. At the time of our visit the eggs and nesting of the petrel were almost unknown. The island is over-run with wild domestic cats which make a business of catching petrels as the setting birds enter and leave their burrows. It is in all probability only a question of a short time before the cats will have exterminated the birds. In view of these facts I ask if we were not justified in taking fifty eggs in two days. Circumstances may alter some of the other cases.

As to the wholesale collecting of birds themselves, I cannot believe it is so dangerous as depicted. I have made a little calculation which really surprised myself. Here it is. Let us suppose that each collector in California kills 5,000 birds each year. There are not over 100 bird and egg collectors in our State so we would have 500,000 birds destroyed each year. Now the area of California is a little over 150,000 square miles, thus giving an annual destruction of three birds to each square mile! This, even, is a most exaggerated estimate, for I very much doubt if there are twenty-five collectors in California, each of whom destroys annually 1,000 birds or eggs. I have collected in the state for about eight years and have under 3,000 skins. The largest private collection I know of here contains little over 10,000 specimens.

I believe that the taking of birds for commercial purposes, the destruction of birds and eggs by boys and the extensive collecting of birds during nesting time, as described in our last BULLETIN are abuses of liberty which should be condemned and prevented. If we are to study biology in all its branches we must have liberty. As to what is abuse of that liberty each must be his own judge, as he is his own judge of what constitutes the abuse of friendship or of any other civil or personal relation.

RICHARD C. MCGREGOR.

Palo Alto, Cal.

AMONG the graduates of the class of '99 at Stanford University, the Cooper Club was well represented. Mr. W. W. Price took his degree of Master of Arts in zoology, while Messrs. R. C. McGregor and Ralph Arnold received the degree of B. A. in ethics and geology respectively. Mr. Arnold was honored with the presidency of the class of '99, and has been the leader of the Stanford Mandolin Club for several years past.

WILFRED H. OSGOOD of the Biological Survey and a member of the Cooper Club, left Seattle on May 24 with Dr. L. B. Bishop of New Haven, Conn., and Mr. A. G. Maddren of Stanford University, for Dawson City on a scientific expedition. The party will be gone five months, travelling from Skagway to Dawson City, thence by revenue steamer down the Yukon to St. Michaels. Mammals and birds will be collected, Mr. Osgood acting as chief naturalist of the expedition.

Winter Observations on Anna's Hummingbird.

BY W. O. EMERSON, HAYWARDS, CAL.

[Read before the Northern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, Sep. 3, 1898.]

NO OTHER group of birds possesses such mysterious interest as the hummingbirds whose brilliancy of plumage entitles them to be called "gems of the air." Living among highly colored flowers from the tropics to the icy north, never in the dust of the earth, the hues of the rainbow are theirs. During the open winter of 1897-98 I had an opportunity to see the hardy Anna's Hummingbirds every day around my house, among the flowering shrubs and blossoming eucalyptus trees. From November 12 they became so common that at any time one or two could be seen resting on the ends of cherry branches or gathering gnats or sweets from the eucalyptus blossoms. One was shot on the 21st which surprised me on picking it up to see that it had not yet attained the perfect helmet. Around the base of the bill were still a number of pin-feathers. Another, collected on the 25th, had only one-half of the crown patch developed, the other feathers at the base of the bill being still in silvery cases. From this I judge that many males do not get their adult feathers till late in winter.

On the 26th and 27th a dozen or more could be seen chasing one another through the eucalypti, scolding and twittering like young swallows. This was more to be noticed among the males, the females many times sitting side by side on the same branch. December growing cooler, only one now and then would be seen in the early forenoon or near dusk, although males were shot on the 2nd, 11th, 19th, 21st and 25th, no females being seen. One

on the 21st had a few pin feathers in the throat patch; one on the 25th had eight or nine perfect feathers in the helmet, the rest of a dull grayish color and the throat patch mottled and incomplete. On cold mornings the hummingbirds would flutter around, hardly able to move their wings, flying in a dull, stupid way as though scarcely awake, but as the air grew warmer they became more lively. Jan. 15 a male was taken which showed a perfect rusty grayish helmet from bill to base of skull, where there are ten or twelve adult feathers lined up around the outer edge. The throat was more of the pattern of the females, being of a grayish lustre, with a reflection of the Ruby-throat. One shot on the 10th had a few feathers at the base of the bill. A female, the first one seen, was shot on the 10th. Another was noticed early in the morning, gathering spider webs along the cypress hedge.

I find no data in any work regarding this winter transition of the male's helmet and throat patch. February 24, 1898, full-fledged young were flying about the garden, showing very early nesting. The data for the first nest found in the past ten years shows a range of four months, as follows: Feb. 22, 1882; Feb. 25, 1883; April 20, 1884; Feb. 21, 1885; Jan. 19, 1886; Jan. 14, 1887; March 20, 1888; March 23, 1889; March 20, 1890 and March 12, 1897. As the cherry trees began to bloom by March 16, 1898, a wave of migration occurred at Haywards. Great numbers of Allen's Hummingbirds appeared and Anna's became more abundant.

Echoes from the Field.

Ravens Nesting on a Railroad Bridge. On April 10th last a sheep-herder brought me a set of three eggs of the American Raven, and on questioning him concerning the nest I learned they were taken from a nest beneath a railroad bridge. This seemed odd, to say the least, as I know of several of their nests on inaccessible cliffs, the birds seeming to intuitively know that man is their enemy. Recently I visited the locality from which the eggs came to verify the truthfulness of the collector's description and to secure the remaining eggs of the set if they had been laid. We travelled some twelve miles of sage desert and came in sight

of the bridge under which the alleged nest was situated. It was apparent that the ravens had selected the bridge for the reason that it was the best place in the district. There were no cliffs within perhaps twenty miles, and as feed was plentiful the ravens had concluded to use the bridge for a nesting site. I found the nest in a confused heap on the ground and two broken eggs near by, the nest having probably been pushed from the trestle by the section men. It had been placed on an upper beam of the bridge and the eggs could not have been more than two feet from the rails. The distance from the ground was about thirty feet. The nest was composed outwardly of coarse sticks, some of them two feet in length. Inside was a snug lining of about five pounds of wool, mixed with soft cedar bark. Many sheep graze on the deserts in winter and the wool was easily obtained. The railroad is used by four trains daily between Lehi Junction and the Tintic mining region and is a branch of the Union Pacific Railway.

H. C. JOHNSON, American Fork, Utah.

Decoy Nests of the Western Winter Wren. I have used the expression "decoy" for the nests that are built by many of our birds, apart from the one used for raising the young. This habit is, perhaps, more characteristic with the wrens than with any other family of our birds, although it is well known as a trait of the Marsh Wrens. The Western Winter Wren, (*Troglodytes hiemalis pacificus*), can easily claim second place in this peculiarity, if, indeed, it does not fully equal the Marsh Wrens. The number of "decoys" built by one pair of these birds varies from one to at least four, and on one occasion I found eight of these false nests that were strung along the edge of a stream bordered by dense growth of all sizes. These were all in a space about 150 yards long and almost in a straight line, but owing to extreme difficulty in locating them, it is probable that there were more. One thing is painfully certain, that I could not find the right nest, although it must have been in the immediate vicinity. I do not, however, feel justified in claiming that all of these belonged to one pair of birds, as four is the largest number I have ever found in any previous case, but only one bird put in an appearance during my entire search. The "decoys" are never so well constructed as the regular nests, but a few weeks ago I was surprised to find that a pair had made over and lined one of last season and laid one egg. Unfortunately a very wet period of weather soaked the nest so thoroughly that the birds deserted. This seems to supply one very good reason for the apparently superfluous "decoys."

J. H. BOWLES, Tacoma, Wash., May 29, '99.

Elevated Nest of the Lutescent Warbler. On May 31, 1897, I found a nest of the Lutescent Warbler placed three feet from the ground in a bunch of vines. It was loosely constructed of a quantity of dry leaves, grass and skeletons of leaves, lined with hair and fine grass. On May 3, 1899, while walking along a creek about one quarter of a mile from where I had found the nest in 1897, I flushed a bird from a nest in an oak tree, and was surprised to see it was a Lutescent Warbler. The nest was six feet from the ground and three feet from the trunk of the tree. A horizontal limb branched out from the tree and a small branch stuck up from it for about eight inches, and over this was a great quantity of Spanish moss, (*Ramalina retiformis*), which fell over the horizontal limb. The nest is quite bulky, composed of leaves, grass and bark strips, lined with hair and fine grass, and was partially supported by both limbs and the moss, which is all about it and which forms quite a cover for the eggs. At this date the eggs were about to hatch and could not be saved.

HENRY W. CARRIGER, Sonoma, Cal.

The Yellow Rail and Saw-Whet Owl in Sonoma Co., Cal. On December 20, 1898, while walking through the salt grass, I flushed a Yellow Rail which flew about twenty feet and alighted. I caught it and carried it about all day and put it in a box that night. The following morning it was quite lively, but I reluctantly killed it. It proved to be a female in fine condition and measures; length, 6½; extent, 13; wing, 3¾; tail 1.20 inches.

On the night of December 16, 1898, my brother brought me an owl which he had caught in a tree near the house. The night was cold and foggy and the bird was apparently in an exhausted condition. To secure the owl, my brother made several jumps at the limb on which it sat before pulling it to the ground, where it sat stupefied and was placed in a box. The next morning it was dead, and upon skinning it I found the stomach empty and the bird in an emaciated condition. Sex, female; length, $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches; extent 8 or $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The bird proved to be a Saw-Whet Owl, a record for Sonoma Co. HENRY W. CARRIGER, Sonoma, Cal.

Violet-green Swallow in Marin Co; Two Unrecorded Captures. I was pleased to see my note on the Violet-green Swallow, which appeared in BULLETIN No. 2, considered worthy of Mr. Carriger's remark in the last issue. The note was certainly rather vague and gave no reason for my identification, which I will now give: *First:* In all the birds which came near enough to be seen distinctly, the *large white patches* on either side of the rump were most conspicuous. *Secondly:* In one instance a bird wheeled so near me (not more than 20 feet away) that a flash of *violet* on the back was distinctly seen as the bird flew by. As these two points, I believe, are characteristic of the Violet-green and not of the Tree Swallow, I think the birds seen may safely be called the former. As no specimens were secured there, of course, is a doubt, but I took the birds to be Violet-green Swallows.

Junco hyemalis.—On January 24, 1897, at Berkely, Cal., I collected an adult ♂ (typical) of this species, as it was feeding by the roadside in company with a large flock of *J. h. oregonus*.

Spinus psaltria arizonæ.—Took a pair of birds at Santa Clara, Cal., the ♂ of which proved to be a typical specimen of this species. On comparison with a number of skins from Arizona and other localities, this bird was found to be a little darker than any and much darker than most of those from the type locality.

T. E. SLEVIN, San Francisco, Cal.

Three Records for San Mateo Co., Cal. I wish to report the capture here in Redwood City, on Sept. 17, '97, of a female Bobolink, (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). The bird was extremely shy and was found among cabbages in a vegetable garden, where it was associated with Bryant's and the Western Savanna Sparrow. This is, as far as I am aware, the first record for the State.

I also have two specimens ♂ ♀ of Leache's Petrel, taken on May 7, '99, near Pescadero, Cal. These are possibly the first ever recorded from the mainland coast of California. They are probably the same as those reported from the Farallone Islands.

In my collection at this time is a skin of the Mexican Ground Dove, belonging to Mr. Chas. Nichols of Pescadero, and taken near that place on Feb. 27, '98. The bird was shot by a boy and given to Mr. Nichols, who made a specimen of it. There were eleven of them in a flock, I understand. They arrived in the boy's yard during a severe storm and sought shelter in a wood-pile, where they remained for three days, when the weather cleared and they departed.

CHASE LITTLEJOHN, Redwood City, Cal.

Nesting of Belding's Sparrow. (*Ammodramus beldingi*.) April 21, 1899 while collecting near Santa Monica I was fortunate enough to discover three nests of Belding's Sparrow, two containing eggs and one containing young. The nests were placed in the salt grass about six inches above the ground and were composed principally of large and small straws of the salt grass with a few straws of Bermuda grass interwoven. The first nest, which contained four eggs, was well lined with horse-hair while the second nest ($\frac{1}{2}$) was lined mostly with fine straws, some hairs and a few gull feathers. The eggs are of a light blue ground color, with irregular markings of lilac and reddish brown. The set of four is marked almost entirely at the larger end, while the other set is well washed over the entire surface. Both sets were incubated about three-fifths.

HOWARD ROBERTSON, Los Angeles, Cal.

BULLETIN
of the
Cooper Ornithological Club
OF CALIFORNIA.

Published bi-monthly at Santa Clara, Cal., in the interests
and as Official Organ of the Club.

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A. I. MCCORMICK, Bradbury Block, Los Angeles, Cal.,
Business Managers.

Subscription, (in advance) - - - One Dollar a Year.
Single Copies, - - - - - 25 Cents.
Six Copies or more of one issue, - 12½ Cents Each.
Foreign Subscription, - - - - - \$1.25.
Free to Honorary Members and to Active Members not
in arrears for dues.

Advertising rates will be sent on application.

Advertisements and subscriptions should be sent to the
Business Managers.

Exchanges should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief.

Notes of interest and striking ornithological photo-
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When extra copies are desired, they should be ordered
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Entered at the Santa Clara Post-office as second class
matter.

This issue of the Bulletin was mailed July 24.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The agitation of the question of bird protection in the last BULLETIN has been productive of numerous words of good cheer from all sides, which unanimity of opinion is gratifying in the extreme. We have the assurance from one of the gentlemen referred to as having indulged in unlimited collecting that no more such work will be done by him and that he believes he collected beyond the limit of scientific requirements, and his frank statement will claim the admiration of all who respect an example of sterling manhood. The sentiment has been unanimous that promiscuous collecting during the breeding season is wholly a question of principle and can have no defense in so far as connecting it with the extermination of the birds is concerned. The letters received have been largely from practical ornithologists, and if they may be taken as indicating the feeling of ornithologists generally, the BULLETIN has sounded the key-note of bird protection.

The dread of the ultra-sentimentalists seems to inspire all active workers, and there appears a desire to eliminate them from the ranks of the true protectionists. As there was no dissenting voice raised, the BULLETIN has omitted publishing the numerous letters received as their sentiment was but a repetition

of the stand taken. A communication from Mr. Richard C. McGregor will be found elsewhere dealing with the matter of collecting, under the caption "Circumstances Alter Cases," and several views are presented which may be considered to advantage, although they may not be intended to apply to the position we have taken.

A pamphlet has been issued by the Pennsylvania Audubon Society through the efforts of Mr. Witmer Stone, Chairman of the A. O. U. Bird Protection Committee, addressed to young bird students, in which they are taught that a personal collection of common local birds is unnecessary to scientific advancement and an effort is made to counteract "the effect of the advice of egg dealers and traders, who seem bent upon developing our budding students into 'egg hogs' instead of ornithologists." The pamphlet is one of the most practical ones in point of reason and good advice which has been issued and Mr. Stone has shorn it of any unnecessary sentiment.

Through an inadvertency in our last issue on page 52, the "Notes from Alameda, Cal.," were not credited. They were contributed by Mr. Donald A. Cohen of Alameda, Cal.

In the Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington (Vol. XIII, pp. 41-42, May 29, 1899) Mr. Wilfred H. Osgood of the Cooper Club submits a paper on "*Chamea fasciata* and its Subspecies." Mr. Osgood finds that the Wren-Tit (*Chamea fasciata*) and the Pallid Wren-Tit (*C. f. henshawi*) are synonymous and it becomes necessary to provide a new name for the northern coast form "heretofore assumed to be typical *fasciata*." Accordingly, the Pallid Wren-Tit (*Chamea fasciata*) is assigned to the "southern coast and interior of California, including coast valleys and foothills from San Francisco Bay south to northern Lower California; interior valleys and slopes north to head of the Sacramento Valley; upper Sonoran zone." For the northern coast form is proposed the name of *Chamea fasciata phaeæ*, or Coast Wren-Tit, with the following habitat: "Coast of Oregon and California from Astoria to Nicasio. Transition zone."

Mr. W. B. JUDSON of Los Angeles, now located at Dawson City, N. W. T., writes:—"I have done practically no collecting since I left Los Angeles in February 1898. I saw about twenty nests of the Bald Eagle with the birds about them at Wrangel and at the mouth of the Stickeen. I found several nests of the Three-toed Woodpecker at the lakes after leaving Glenora on the last of May, but all had young nearly ready to fly. I have seen a couple of Hawk Owls and a few small birds in the fall, but there are no birds here at present, (March) excepting ravens, chickadees and jays. Also a few ptarmigan and grouse. I have put up one skin since I came in." Mr. Judson speaks doubtfully of mining interests about Dawson City.

The Gopher Snake as a Despoiler of Quails' Nests.

The question of what part the common spotted gopher-snake plays in the economy of nature has arisen frequently in my mind, and until recently I had accepted the prevalent opinion that he was "harmless." The following four observations, however, have convinced me that he is a bad citizen. The Valley Partridge is a very common bird on the Stanford ranch, due to the protection from hunters the year round. I have often heard the old birds during breeding time giving the alarm notes for several minutes. They were generally perched in the trees and I ascribed their fear to my approach.

May 29.—I came upon a pair of partridges in a low tree giving notes of great alarm. I thought at first that a flock of newly hatched chicks might be near and commenced to look for them. Pulling aside the branches of a low shrub, there was disclosed a nest of eight eggs and a large gopher snake with four knots in his body, which, when pressed, flattened out. I watched him a moment and he swallowed an egg. I killed him and ripped him open. Inside were four eggs unbroken and material for at least two more.

May 31.—Another pair of excited birds attracted my attention and after an hour's search I found another nest of twelve eggs and another snake with one lump in his body. I killed him instantly.

June 5.—Still another excited partridge household and the same cause discovered after search. This time I tried dragging the robber away, to ascertain how anxious he was to continue his meal. He would return after being taken away ten paces. I killed him and cut him open. He had swallowed at least one egg which was well along in incubation.

June 22.—This time a flutter and a struggle in the shrubbery attracted my attention. It was the female trying to drive the snake away. Being in a hurry I carried the snake about fifty yards down the path and put him down. He started off in the direction of the nest and when I returned an hour later he was gulping down an egg. There was a lump in him well down toward the end of the abdomen, and I regretted after having killed him that I did not bring him home and see if he was able to digest an egg with the shell on.

THEODORE J. HOOVER.

Stanford University, June 22, '99

Taking of a Condor's Egg.

On April 17, 1899, an egg of the California Condor was taken in San Roque canon, near Santa Barbara, by F. Ruiz, a surveyor in the employ of the Pacific Improvement Co., who, with a party, was doing some work in the canon. His attention was first attracted by seeing a pair of the birds flying about the canon, and it occurred to him that there might possibly be a nest in the vicinity. Acting on this supposition he and a companion named Forbush proceeded up the canon, and finally noticed a cave on a high cliff some 150 feet above the creek, which they managed to reach after considerable difficulty. From the top Ruiz was enabled to look over the edge a short distance into the cave, where he saw the egg on the floor of the cave, with one of the birds crouched on the ground beside the nest, which consisted of a few sticks of brush and some sand which had evidently blown into the cave from the edge of the cliff.

Mr. Ruiz states that the bird remained in this position until he had thrown several rocks at it, one of which either hit the bird or came close enough to make it take flight when it proceeded down the canon. At considerable risk, Ruiz then clambered down into the cave without the aid of a rope or other assistance, save what the brush afforded, his companion remaining on the cliff to give him warning in event of any hostility on the part of the disturbed condor. While securing the egg he was told that the bird was returning and as he was retreating up the cliff with the prize he noticed both birds on the wing, and to use his own words, "fighting and quarreling in the air." They did not attempt any attack, but followed the men about for a considerable time before taking leave. The egg was perfectly fresh and measured 4 3-10 x 2 6-10 inches and was a trifle deeper in color than those I have seen illustrated. A young condor (a "yearling," I suppose) was shot in the same canon about two months ago.

A. P. REDINGTON.

Santa Barbara, Cal., May 2, '99.

JOHN M. WELCH, Henry W. Carriger and C. Barlow spent a week in the Sierras of El Dorado Co., Cal., early in June and had a most enjoyable outing. Numerous photographs were taken and Mr. Carriger carried away the only set of Hermit Warbler reported for the season.

Official Minutes of Southern Division.

MAY.

The Division met May 27 at the residence of Mr. H. J. Leland in Los Angeles. The following were present: Messrs. McCormick, Daggett, Swarth, Leland, Chambers, Rising and Robertson. Messrs. McAuliffe and Lapham were present as visitors. Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Moody of Pasadena were elected to membership. The final design of a club crest, as drawn by Mr. Emerson was accepted. On motion of Mr. McCormick it was agreed to amend the section of the Division's by-laws, changing the meeting night from the last Saturday to the last Thursday in the month. The treasurer reported that there were a number of delinquent members on his list and that he had sent notices to each at different times but had received no replies. He was instructed to send one more notice to each delinquent notifying him of his arrears and stating that if a settlement was not made by the next meeting his name would be dropped from the membership roll. A communication from Mr. McGregor was read and a copy ordered filed. A letter from Earle D. Parker, formerly of Pasadena, containing his resignation was read and the resignation accepted. The following paper was read: "Ornithology in the Sierra Nevadas at 3700 ft. altitude," by C. Barlow. Adjourned.

JUNE.

The June meeting was held at the residence of Mr. A. C. Moody, Pasadena, on June 29. Mr. Daggett presided. The following were present: Mr. and Mrs. Moody, Messrs. Daggett, Reiser, Swarth and Robertson. The secretary was instructed to make a copy of all county ordinances relating to the protection of game and song birds that have been recently passed in this county and make a report at the next meeting.

HOWARD ROBERTSON,
Div. Secretary.

Official Minutes of Northern Division.

The Division met at the residence of H. R. Taylor in Alameda, July 1. Mr. Emerson in the chair. Messrs. Milton S. Ray, Chester C. Lamb, E. V. Warren and N. M. Flower were elected to active membership. The names of W. H. Kobbe of Ft. Mason, San Francisco, and H. H. Sheldon of Alameda were proposed for membership. Bills to the amount of \$3.86 were allowed. The following papers were read: "Winter Birds of the Lower Colorado Valley," by W. W. Price; "The Genus *Junco* in California" by H. B. Kaeding; "Another Chapter on the Nesting of the Hermit Warbler" by C. Barlow.

C. BARLOW,
Div. Secretary.

As we go to press we learn of the retirement from the *Osprey* staff of Dr. Elliott Coues, Mr. Walter A. Johnson and Mr. L. A. Fuertes, leaving Dr. Theo. Gill to direct the destinies of the magazine. We are unable to learn whether or not Dr. Gill will continue to publish the *Osprey*.

PALO ALTO, CAL., JUNE 18, 1899.

Fellow Members of the Cooper Club;

Under date of Oct. 1, 1896, circular No. 1 was sent to you setting forth our plan for the preparation of a list of California birds. County lists were to be sent to me not later than January of the next year that I as secretary of the State List Committee might proceed at once to draw up our list.

In a very short time I began to receive contributions and things looked well, but after the tenth list not another could I secure. I have let the matter stand until this spring, when I got together what material was on hand and now I have that in good shape. I have decided to get up the water birds first, as that is what we most need and I believe the Club is able to have it printed. I shall use such of the material in Mr. Belding's manuscript, "Water Birds of the Pacific District," as relates to California and any published notes that are available. I hope those who have any records on the water birds, especially extended local lists, will send them to me at once.

I am now in a position to push the work rapidly and trust you will all do your part that we may have a good catalogue of water birds.

Notes are especially desired on abundance, nesting dates and time of arrival and departure. Give specific data as much as possible and avoid generalized statements.

Faithfully, RICHARD C. MCGREGOR.

Publications Received.

Bird Lore, I, No. 3, June, 1899.
Maine Sportsman, VI, Nos. 69 and 70, May and June, 1899.
Museum V, Nos. 7 and 8, May and June, 1899.
Osprey III, No. 9, May, 1899.
Oologist XVI, No. 5, May, 1899.
Ornithologisches Jahrbuch IX, No. 1.
Plant World II, Nos. 8 and 9, May and June, 1899.
Proc. Biological Society of Washington, Vol. XIII, (in part).
Sports Afield, No. 6, June, 1899.
Wilson Bulletin, No. 26, May, 1899.

MARRIED.—In San Francisco, June 6, 1899, Miss Mildred Crew Brooke of Baltimore, to Theodore J. Hoover of Stanford University, Rev. E. B. Church, assistant rector of Trinity Church, officiating.

Mr. Hoover is a prominent member of the Cooper Club, and his numerous friends and club mates will join in tendering their hearty congratulations and well wishes.

JOHN M. WILLARD of Oakland is spending two months on a collecting trip at the summit of the mountains of Lassen County in the interests of several Club members about the Bay.

MR. LYMAN BELDING of Stockton has been rustication on the McCloud River near Dunsmuir, Shasta Co., for several weeks, and we hope has materially improved in health.





Exchange Notices.

LOST.—Some of my correspondence I have not recovered, as my mail was forwarded to Central America. Please write again if I have not answered your letter.

R. C. MCGREGOR, Palo Alto, Cal.

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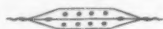
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